

[8th February 1924]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Will the hon. the Minister be good enough to state the reasons for his declining to answer these pertinent questions?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The answer to this follows from the answer I have given before."

*Travelling allowance drawn by Presidents of certain District Boards.*

311 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowances drawn by the Presidents of the District Boards of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tinnevely, Kistna and Gōdāvari during the months of August, September and October 1923?

A.—The Government have no information.

*The Salem District Board.*

312 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Foulkes was renominated as President of the District Board, Salem, a few days before his departure to England;

(b) whether the Minister was aware of Mr. Foulkes' impending departure when he passed the order nominating him;

(c) whether Mr. Foulkes is expected to be absent from India for more than six months; and

(d) whether the Vice-President of the District Board, Salem, has arranged to hold meetings of the Board once in two months, instead of once in a month?

A.—(a) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 1 of Schedule II to the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as amended by notification No. 657 published in Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th September 1922.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know the reasons why, when the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government knew that Mr. Foulkes was going out of India, he appointed him as President of the Salem District Board without ascertaining from him as to how long he will be absent from India, especially when he was the head of an executive office?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The answer, as stated, is in the negative. That shows that I did not know."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The hon. the Minister does not seem to follow my question. May I suggest that he studies the questions and answers a little more carefully?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"On a point of order, Sir, it is not open to the hon. Member to ask the hon. the Minister as to why he did not do this or do that. I think there must be a certain amount of discipline in the House and hon. Members should observe the decorum that is necessary for the dignity of the House."



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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Discipline and decorum are entirely in your hands, Sir. I submit, Sir, that I have committed no breach of discipline in inviting the hon. the Minister's attention to the question I have put and which has not been answered. In answer to clause (c) which asks whether Mr. Foulkes is expected to be absent from India for more than six months, he says, it is in the affirmative. So, I am entitled to ask him why, when he knew that Mr. Foulkes would be absent from India for six months, he entrusted the executive charge of a responsible office like the presidentship of a district board to him ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I fail to see the logic involved in this question. I said that I knew that he would be absent from India for six months. I came to know of it only after he departed or it may be that I knew it only yesterday. It does not mean that I knew it at the time when he left office.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know when the hon. the Minister came to know of that ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I cannot say when exactly I came to know of it.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know when the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government came to know of it ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I think the hon. the Minister has just informed the hon. Member that he cannot say exactly when he came to know of it.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I did not hear it. Now, I want only to ask this one question. I want to know whether the hon. the Minister has any intention of cancelling that appointment ? ”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ That question does not arise as a supplementary question.”

*Salem District Board.*

313 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of nominated seats on the District Board of Salem ;
- (b) the number of Adi-Dravidas so far nominated to that Board ;
- (c) whether the Minister recently nominated a relation of the Vice-President of the Salem District Board as a member of the Board ; and
- (d) the number of members of the Salem District Board belonging to the caste to which the Vice-President belongs ?

A.—(a) Ten.

(b) Three.

(c) The Government have no information as to whether the member recently nominated is related to the Vice-President.

(d) The Government have no information.